



**Intercontinental Terminals Company (ITC) Fire Morning Update  
Deer Park, Texas  
March 29, 2019 0000 – March 29, 2019 1159**

- As of 7:00 pm on March 29, the Harris County EOC transitioned back to normal operations.
- At 11:20 pm on March 29, 2019, ITC sent out an e-notify to surrounding industry and local officials after a significant benzene detection at the Vo-Pak facility north of the tank farm recommending shelter-in-place. At 1:25 am, Vo-Pak reported sheltering-in-place.
- At approximately 3:25 am on March 30, 2019, ITC staging area was evacuated due to elevated benzene levels (0.925 parts per million (ppm)). Further monitoring showed non-detection.
- EPA continues to ensure the health and safety of the public and response personnel. At approximately 5:00 am on March 30, 2019, benzene readings above 0.5 ppm were recorded near Independence Parkway going towards Battleship Memorial Park. Workers and responders were required to wear a respirator due to elevated benzene readings. The Battleship Memorial Park continues to be closed to public. Both the tank farm and the Bayou are considered to be the sources of the benzene elevated readings.
- On March 29, 2019, EPA requested the Planning Group/ITC to produce a map correlating the benzene elevated readings north of the channel with known pockets of product in the channel or bayou for potential prioritization of resources.
- On March 29, 2019, a Wildlife Management Plan was developed and signed off by ITC, United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), and Wildlife Response Services. Several dead turtles were found early on March 30, 2019, in an impacted area.
- On March 29, 2019, ITC has requested modification to the Statement of work in the Order issued under the Clean Water Act by EPA on March 23. OSC Adams and EPA Attorney Quinones are responding to the request.
- ITC continues foaming of the secondary containment to prevent reignition and reduce emissions as necessary.
- EPA conducted surface water sampling on March 29, 2019 at ten sample locations. Samples were collected from upstream the confluence of Buffalo Bayou and the San Jacinto River (in the Old River at River Terrace Park and at the shoreline of Juan Sequin Historic Park), in the main channel of the San Jacinto River (upstream of the confluence with Buffalo Bayou), and downstream in the San Jacinto River. The surface water samples will be analyzed for Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), Semi-volatile Organic Compounds (SVOCs), Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD), and Oil & Grease.
- Several entities including Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), EPA, and ITC continue to conduct air monitoring around the tank farm, in adjoining industrial areas, and communities downwind from the facility.
- The Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology (ASPECT) aircraft did not fly during this reporting period.
- EPA conducted air sampling using the Trace Atmospheric Gas Analyzer (TAGA) on March 29, 2019. The TAGA analyzed the air samples for benzene, toluene and xylene. The TAGA air sampling results were compared to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) short-term Air Monitoring Comparison Values (AMCVs) and found no exceedances of the short-term AMCVs for toluene and xylene. The TAGA air sampling results found exceedances of the short-term AMCV for benzene (0.18 ppm). These exceedances of the short-term AMCV for benzene were north west of the ITC site and have been shared with unified command and local officials.

- The Strike Team comprised of EPA and ITC were sent to the areas around Channelview (north of the site) due to elevated readings of benzene during the night. Unified Command and Harris County were kept apprised of the readings.
- EPA conducted handheld air monitoring from March 29, 2019 (12:00 am) to March 29, 2019 (11:59 pm) at 45 locations in areas located northwest of the Site as well as Buffalo Bayou. Results were reported above the detection limit at 12 locations for total volatile organic compounds (VOCs), one location for carbon monoxide (CO), and 12 locations for benzene. Benzene was detected at ten of these locations above the short-term AMCVs for benzene (0.18 ppm). EPA will conduct additional air monitoring and deploy the Trace Atmospheric Gas Analyzer (TAGA) to determine if the short-term AMCV for benzene continues to be exceeded.
- ITC continued air monitoring from 12:00 am on March 29, 2019 to 11:59 pm on March 29, 2019. There were 3,114 VOC readings (693 detections) and 2,460 benzene readings (670 detections).
- TCEQ continued handheld air monitoring on March 29; from 12:00 am to 10:00 approximately 164 readings were taken. No readings above the Unified Command action level were detected.
- Unified Command developed, reviewed, and approved the Incident Action Plan (#8) for the next operational period (which is 48 hours as of this IAP).
- Vacuum truck operations at Tucker Bayou and the outfall ditch continue on a 24-hour basis.
- On March 29, 2019, ITC continues to empty the impacted tanks into non-impacted tanks, secondary containment, or the wastewater treatment tank. The following table provides the status of the tanks.

## Additional Information: Air Monitoring and Water Sampling locations:

